



## The Scope of Youth Homelessness in Los Angeles

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## How do we know how many homeless youth are on our streets



- We don't really know how many homeless youth are in the United States – Call from US Interagency Council of Homelessness to fix this.
- Two methods: Street Counts & Random Sampling
  - Leads to two very different numbers



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## Adolescent homelessness in the USA



- We don't really know how many homeless youth are in the United States
- Random Samples: 1.7 million have at least one night of homelessness
  - From Ringwalt's 1998 work – National sample
  - 7% of 12 to 17 years olds
- Street Counts: In LAHSA Point in Time 2011
  - 3593 18-24 year olds
  - 369 12-17 year olds

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## Results from Two Recent Studies



- Hollywood Homeless Youth Point In Time Estimate Project (HHYPIT) – Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership Agencies and USC School of Social Work
- Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), supplemental survey to the CDC's bi-annual Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)



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### HHYPIT Methods: Agencies & Outreach

- A week long recruitment – October 19-25, 2012.
- A single recruiter was at each of the six participating HHYP agencies for the week during all hours.
- A single recruiter went with each outreach team at the three agencies with outreach teams.
  - Every youth who sought services or who was approached by outreach teams was asked to participate.
- Asked each youth where they slept on Oct 18, 2012**



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### The semi-anonymous code

- Participants were asked to provide the first three letters of his/her first name, first three letters of last name, and 6 digit date of birth.
  - This became a unique code: ERIRIC021073
  - Cannot match to a specific person for privacy, but likelihood of two unique people with same code is low, so
  - throw out multiple instances of same code to create conservative estimate
- We asked youth to just give us the code if they told us they had taken the survey at another location

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### The brief survey

- Asked where they slept Oct 18, 2012
  - Used calendars to help remember
- Asked about homeless experiences in last 30 days, last 12 months
- Asked demographic questions
- Asked relevant life experiences
- Brief unsigned consent, two page survey, 5-10 minutes total, 2 bus tokens compensation
- 1 bus token if they gave us code on repeat contact

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### HHYPIT Results

- We contacted 460 unique youth during the week
- 222 were “literally” homeless the night of Thursday, October 18, 2012,
- Literal homelessness: is emergency shelter, transitional living program, outside, or place unfit for human habitation.



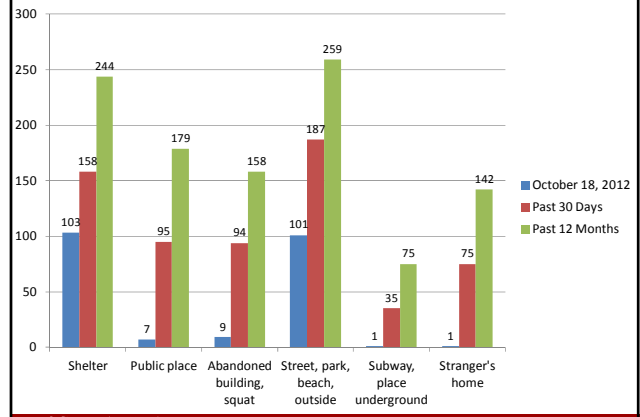
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### Literal Homelessness History

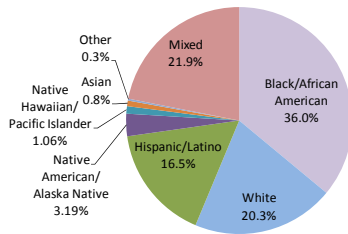


- (1) in a youth or adult shelter,
- (2) in a public place, such as a train or bus station, a restaurant, or an office building,
- (3) in an abandoned building, squat
- (4) outside in a park, on the street, on the beach, under a bridge or overhang, or on a rooftop,
- (5) in a subway or other public place underground,
- (6) with someone you did not know because you needed a place to stay.
- (7) None of these

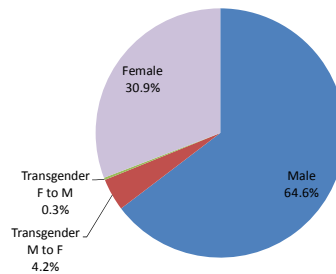
Past Year Literal Homelessness

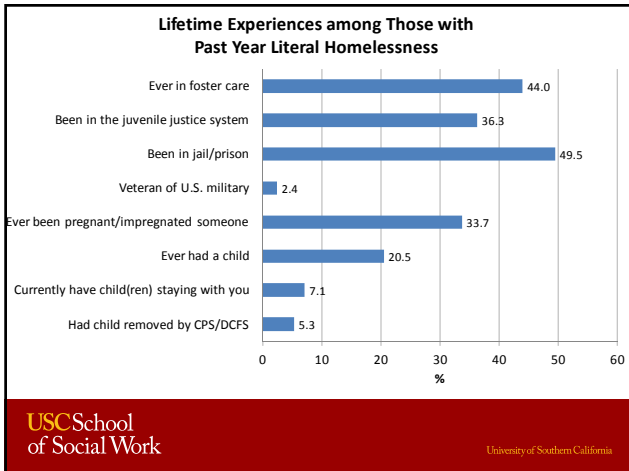
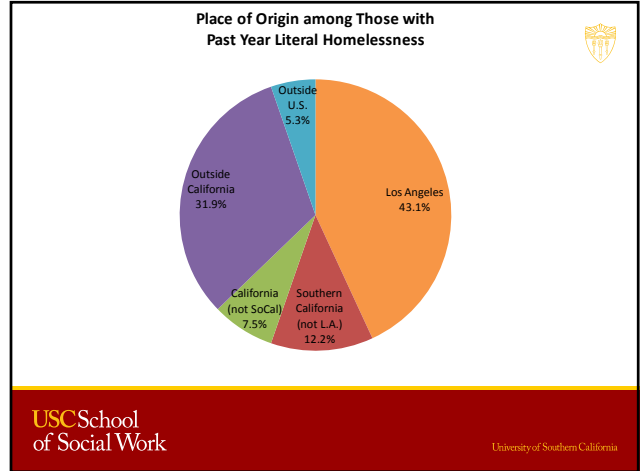
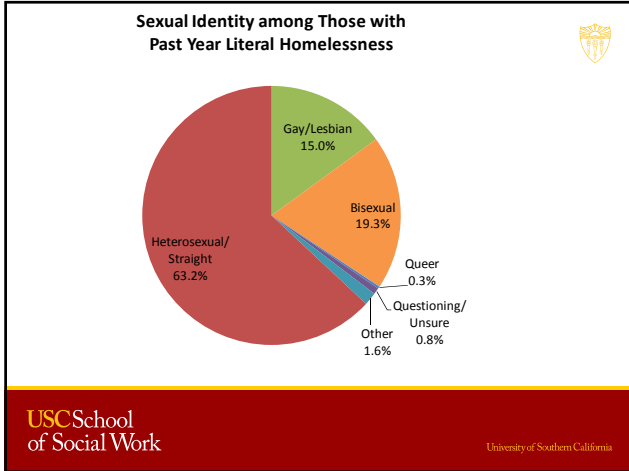


Race among Those with Past Year Literal Homelessness



Gender among Those with Past Year Literal Homelessness





### LAUSD – Random Sample Method

- Supplement to the 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- Every other year CDC and LAUSD collect random sample of LAUSD high school students
- Schools randomly selected, classes within schools randomly selected
- Of 2425 students selected 1853 completed (76%)

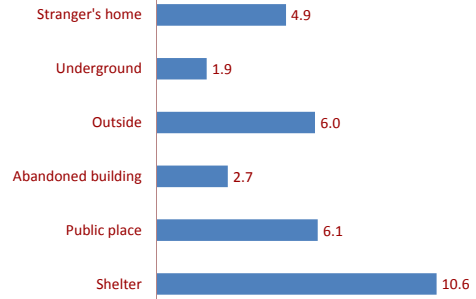
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### Assessing homelessness - Ringwalt

"During the past 12 months, have you spent the night in any of the following places?"

- (1) in a youth or adult shelter,
- (2) in a public place, such as a train or bus station, a restaurant, or an office building
- (3) in an abandoned building
- (4) outside in a park, on the street, under a bridge or overhang, or on a rooftop
- (5) in a subway or other public place underground
- (6) with someone you did not know because you needed a place to stay."

### Percentage of LAUSD students 12-17

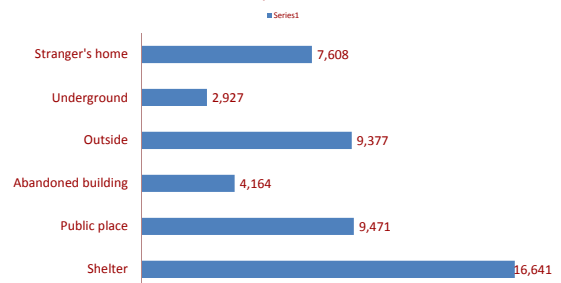


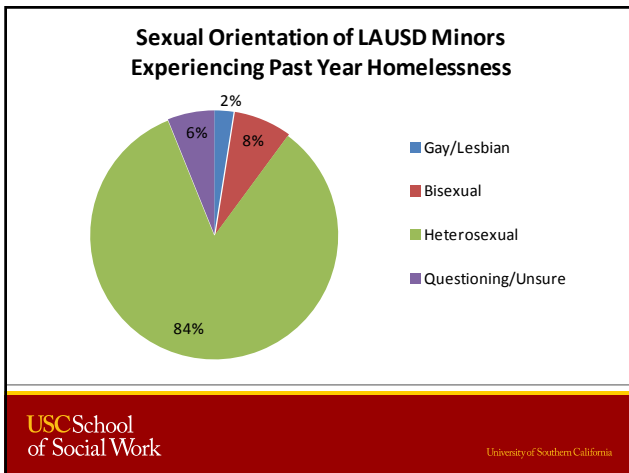
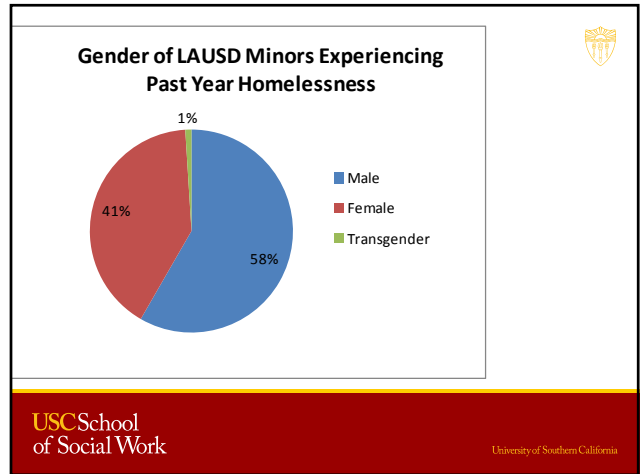
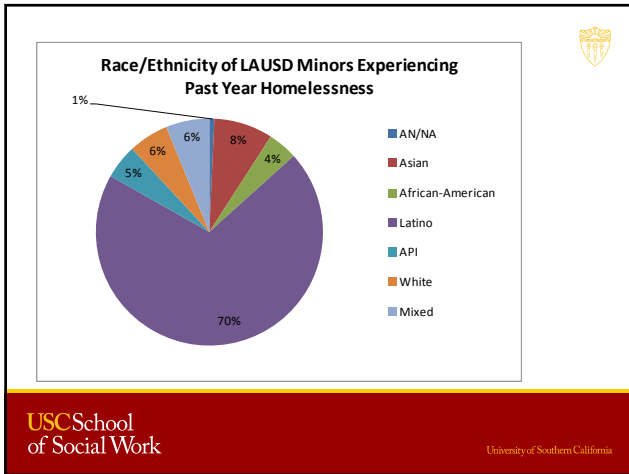
### So how many youth is that?

There were 162,225 high school students in LAUSD in 2011. According to our sample, 96.85% were 12-17.

There were an estimated **36,773** minors who experienced at least one night of homelessness.

### Estimated # LAUSD Minors (12-17 yrs) with Past Year Literal Homelessness Experiences



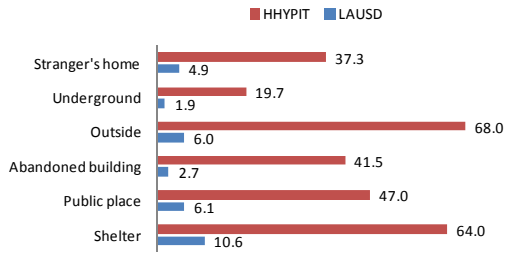


### So what is the scope of youth homelessness in Los Angeles?????

- According to LAHSA in 2011: 3593 18-24 year olds, 369 12-17 year olds. One Night. 4000 square miles of LA county.
- According to HHYPIT: 183 18-24 year olds, 39 12-17 year olds. One night 3.5 square miles of Hollywood.
- LAUSD: 36,773 12-17 year olds. One year.
- BAD no matter how you cut it!

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### Proportion Experiencing Past Year Literal Homelessness, by Place, LAUSD Minors vs. HHYPIT



### Recommendations:



- Based on HHYPIT
  - Count youth for a week, ask about a specific day
  - Survey youth when counting them
  - Use our semi-anonymous code to assess double contacts.
  - We think using youth to help in the count would be an improvement
- Based on LAUSD
  - Incorporate homelessness assessments into surveys given at schools.
  - Gives prevalence for a year, not one day.
  - Could try asking the item, "last night" but many youth may be absent from school if homeless the night before.

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